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Journal

Office of Legislative Counsel

Thursday - 25 March 1954

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1. The DCI talked with Cong. Kersten at the Congressman's request. Mr. Wisner and I were present. The Congressman discussed a proposed revision of the so-called Kersten amendment which is currently being considered by the House Committee on Foreign Affairs. Mr. Kersten had previously discussed this matter with Cong. Vorys who in turn had also discussed it with the Director. Mr. Kersten was concerned with the possibility that they would remove from the original text the phrase "residing in" which he considered to be a grave error in the light of the history of the Vishinsky and other Soviet attacks upon the Kersten amendment. The DCI felt, and Mr. Kersten agreed, that a dynamic new package of legislation of this type might well be in order, but Mr. Kersten urged that there be no backing away from the original language in this one respect. The DCI touched only briefly on Mr. Kersten's forthcoming trip abroad, saying that we would be glad to cooperate with him. Mr. Kersten indicated the necessary delicacy in any hearings in Germany and that if they were to be held they would necessarily have to be held in executive session. (See memo for the DCI this date, Subject: Visit of Cong. Kersten to DCI on 25 March).

2. Mr. [ ] General Counsel of NSA, called me to obtain our views on the Mansfield and Brownson resolutions. I told him that we took a neutral position in that it was primarily a Congressional matter, but in reply to his further question stated that we considered the Armed Services Committees as our parent Committees. He stated that the resolutions were of course of interest to NSA. I told him that if General Canine wanted additional views we would be glad to brief Mr. [ ] further.

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